



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/064,286	06/28/2002	Jan Hellaker	07589.0033.PCUS00	4430
28694	7590	01/18/2007	EXAMINER	
NOVAK DRUCE & QUIGG, LLP			D AGOSTA, STEPHEN M	
1300 EYE STREET NW			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
SUITE 1000 WEST TOWER				
WASHINGTON, DC 20005			2617	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		01/18/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/064,286	HELLAKER, JAN	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Stephen M. D'Agosta	2617	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 September 2006.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 11-23 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 11-13 and 15-23 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 14 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

In response to the RCE received 9-6-2006, a new office action is found below.

- New prior art, Nojima (US 5,933,080) has been added.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 11 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

This claim states:

- a) "...the object (20, 24, 25) and a selectable service subscription for transmitting and managing at least one of the services including remote status information, malfunction, diagnostics and maintenance, technical and emergency assistance by means of the at least one central station (10).".
- b) "...and wherein means is provided for automatically resolving conflict associated with simultaneous execution of a plurality of said services".

If the examiner reads "a" with its most narrow interpretation, only ONE service is provided (eg. "at least one" becomes just "one" service). This then makes "b" indefinite because it empirically states that there is execution of a plurality of services, yet this cannot occur if the user/driver has only a subscription to ONE service.

- The examiner believes "at least one" needs to be deleted.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 11 and 15-20 and 23 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Timm et al. US 5,572,204 and further in view of Hattori et al. US 6,285,931 and Nojima US 5,933,080.

As per **claims 11 and 23**, Timm teaches a system for communication between at least one central station (figure 1, #15) and at least one remote mobile or stationary object (figure 1, #10 is vehicle-mounted hardware) by means of transmitting and receiving means wherein said at least one object comprises a cellular phone module which provides a private subscription for private usage by a driver or operator of the object (figure 1, #22 shows cellular transceiver which reads on a cell phone) and a selectable service subscription for transmitting and managing at least one of the services including roadside assistance and emergency by means of the at least one central station (abstract teaches both and C1, L60 to C2, L30) **but is silent on** remote status information, malfunction, and diagnostics and maintenance are monitored and resolving conflict with simultaneous execution of a plurality of services.

Hattori teaches a vehicle information system that transmits vehicle diagnosis information to a management station (abstract, figure 1, figure 4 shows areas monitored #41-48, figures 7-10 and C2, L15 to C3, L46).

Nojima teaches an emergency calling system that prioritizes who is to be contacted based on certain roadway conditions and/or accident (see abstract, figures 1 and 3). Hence, Timm and Hattori's systems are performing routine maintenance

monitoring, they would be interrupted if a crash occurs (as taught by Nojima's call database prioritization).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify Timm/Hattori, such that remote status information, malfunction, and diagnostics and maintenance are monitored with conflict resolution for simultaneous execution of a plurality of services, to provide means for obtaining technical vehicle status data from the automobile which can be passed to the central station to assist them in evaluating the car's operation (eg. doesn't work because there is something wrong with the Alternator, it's out of gas, the battery has died, etc.).

As per **claim 15**, the combo teach the system according to claim 11, wherein the at least one central station is a customer service center and the at least one remote object (20, 24, 25) is a vehicle, a boat, a plane or a remote facility or plant (Timm teaches a "response center" figure 1, #15 which reads on the claim and a car/vehicle, C1, L15-21. One skilled can adapt this system to a boat, plane or remote facility/plant).

As per **claim 16**, the combo teach the system according to claim 11, wherein the service subscription is activated by the central station or the remote object (figure 1 #15 shows a response center that must inherently activate a subscription so as to know that a certain car/vehicle is to be monitored and C3, L60-67 teaches checking on the user's account. General Motors' ON STAR is a subscription-based service that is well known in the art (see Lumelsky, referenced by not cited – "General Motors Corporation introduced its OnStar system for the 1997 Cadillac model. By linking the car's cellular phone to a global positioning satellite, OnStar can locate and send help to a stranded or disabled motorist; including sending medical assistance as soon as it detects that the car's air bag has been deployed. OnStar's service center operator receives coordinates of an automobile equipped with the OnStar system and could navigate its user, over the cellular phone, with continuous directions").

As per **claim 17**, the combo teach the system according to claim 11, wherein a satellite communication is provided for activation when cellular communication is not available (Timm teaches cellular communications which typically is terrestrial-based but a base station can be a space-based satellite and would be used if/when a terrestrial BTS is not available and that specific area is covered by a satellite, see C9, L3-13 too. The examiner notes that Razavi, referenced but not cited, teaches multiple communications means, see figure 1 #26-29 and hence one skilled would also use satellite communications).

As per **claim 18**, the combo teaches the system according to claim 11, wherein the at least one object comprises a controller module for bi-directional communication with a data bus or network manager which is connected with an internal data bus or network of the object (figure 1, #20 teaches a system controller and internal data bus connections to other components such as the cell transceiver, GPS transceiver, message center, cellular handset, etc.).

As per **claim 19**, the combo teach the system according to claim 18, wherein the at least one object comprises at least one of a user interface manager (C3, L1-15 teaches user interaction with the system, eg. an interface), a satellite communication module (Timm teaches cellular communications which typically is terrestrial-based but a base station can be a space-based satellite and would be used if/when a terrestrial BTS is not available and that specific area is covered by a satellite, see C9, L3-13 too. The examiner notes that Razavi, referenced but not cited, teaches multiple communications means, see figure 1 #26-29 and hence one skilled would also use satellite communications), a GPS controller (figure 1, #21 teaches GPS controller/receiver) and at least one emergency sensor (207) for automatically detecting accidents, emergency or malfunctions of the object (C9, L3-13 – “Although global position system (GPS) and cellular technologies have been described in the preferred embodiment, other positioning and communication technologies could be used in the present invention. For example, position information could be obtained from the Loran-C system or other

Art Unit: 2617

navigation systems. A communication system such as the personal communication service (PCS) could also be used. In addition to activating the vehicle emergency message system from any manual switch assembly, service requests could also be initiated automatically, such as in response to deployment of an airbag").

As per **claim 20**, the combo teaches the system according to claim 11, wherein a transition from private subscription to service subscription can be initiated by a key press of the operator and/or automatically by means of at least one sensor (207) for detecting accidents, emergency or malfunctions of the object or by means of a further sensor for detecting an air-bag deployment (figure 1 shows cellular transceiver and handset which can be used for private subscription, figure 1, #22/#25 while C9, L3-13 teaches automatic service request based on an event such as an airbag deployment).

Claims 12-13 and 21-22 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Timm and Hattori and further in view of Nojima.

As per **claim 12-13**, Timm teaches claim 11 **but is silent on** wherein the service subscription transmission preempt private usage transmissions AND/OR wherein each service has a priority value assigned thereto for use in automatic resolution of conflict AND/OR emergency assistance has highest priority so that on-going calls are interrupted in deference thereto.

The examiner notes that if only one communications means exists, then one skilled would need to ensure that service data is prioritized and is based on priority since simultaneous communications is not possible. Conversely, if multiple communication means exist, then service data can be sent via simultaneously and one does not have to prioritize data. The examiner take **Official Notice** that this "concept" is similar to Quality of Service applications which are well known in the art and provide more bandwidth to high(er) priority users/applications as needed and will preempt any low(er) priority users/traffic if bandwidth becomes constrained.

Nojima teaches an emergency calling system that prioritizes who is to be contacted based on certain roadway conditions and/or accident (see abstract, figures 1

and 3). Hence, Timm and Hattori's systems are performing routine maintenance monitoring, they would be interrupted if a crash occurs (as taught by Nojima's call database prioritization).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify Timm/Hattori, such that wherein a conflict concerning simultaneous execution of several services during service subscription is handled automatically by assigning and affecting a priority to each service and deactivating any services with a minor priority than the service with a first priority, to provide means for transmitting service data via one data path if/when two-or-more service events occur concurrently.

As per **claim 21**, Timm teaches a system for communication between at least one central station (figure 1, #15) and at least one remote mobile or stationary object (figure 1, #10 is vehicle-mounted hardware) by means of transmitting and receiving means wherein said at least one object comprises a cellular phone module which provides a private subscription for private usage by a driver or operator of the object (figure 1, #22 shows cellular transceiver which reads on a cell phone) and a selectable service subscription for transmitting and managing at least one of the services including roadside assistance and emergency by means of the at least one central station (abstract teaches both and C1, L60 to C2, L30) and Timm teaches Power Up mode, Wait Mode and Activation mode (see figure 2) as well as automatic periodic call-in (#39) and Wake-up Control (#43) which read on the claim regarding "...sleep mode (S), a standby mode (W) and a first service execution mode (T1), wherein the sleep mode is terminated when a wake up timer elapsed and the standby mode is activated in which the object waits for an incoming message from the service center via a cellular and/or a satellite communication for a predetermined period of time, after which the sleep mode is again activated if no message has been received or a requested service is activated if a related message has been received and decoded..."

but is silent on remote status information, malfunction, and diagnostics and maintenance are monitored AND wherein a conflict concerning simultaneous execution

Art Unit: 2617

of several services during service subscription is handled automatically by assigning and affecting a priority to each service and deactivating any services with a minor priority than the service with first priority.

Hattori teaches a vehicle information system that transmits vehicle diagnosis information to a management station (abstract, figure 1, figure 4 shows areas monitored #41-48, figures 7-10 and C2, L15 to C3, L46).

The examiner notes that if only one communications means exists, then one skilled would need to ensure that service data is prioritized and is based on priority since simultaneous communications is not possible. Conversely, if multiple communication means exist, then service data can be sent via simultaneously and one does not have to prioritize data.

Nojima teaches an emergency calling system that prioritizes who is to be contacted based on certain roadway conditions and/or accident (see abstract, figures 1 and 3). Hence, Timm and Hattori's systems are performing routine maintenance monitoring, they would be interrupted if a crash occurs (as taught by Nojima's call database prioritization).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify Timm/Hattori, such that wherein a conflict concerning simultaneous execution of several services during service subscription is handled automatically by assigning and affecting a priority to each service and deactivating any services with a minor priority than the service with a first priority, to provide quality of service whereby higher priority messages preempt lower priority messages as required.

As per **claim 22**, the combo teach the method according to claim 21 wherein the at least one object has a phone mode (figure 1 shows cellular handset/transceiver #22/#25 **but is silent on** a second execution mode (T2), wherein the phone mode is interrupted when a service is requested, until a cellular and/or a satellite communication between the object and the central station has been established and the service has been executed.

Nojima teaches an emergency calling system that prioritizes who is to be contacted based on certain roadway conditions and/or accident (see abstract, figures 1 and 3). Hence, Timm and Hattori's systems are performing routine maintenance monitoring, they would be interrupted if a crash occurs (as taught by Nojima's call database prioritization).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify Timm/Hattori, such that there is a second execution mode, wherein the phone mode is interrupted when a service is requested, until a cellular and/or a satellite communication between the object and the central station has been established and the service has been executed, to provide means for connecting a service-based call to the central station even if the communication means is being used by the driver, to ensure the service-based call gets through to the central station.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 14 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Art Unit: 2617

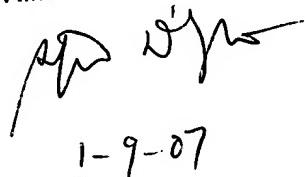
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen M. D'Agosta whose telephone number is 571-272-7862. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8am to 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bill Trost can be reached on 571-272-7872. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

STEVE M. D'AGOSTA
PRIMARY EXAMINER



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SDA".

1-9-07